

Randolph County Public Health

ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27205-7368

Ira McDowell Governmental Center
2222-B South Fayetteville Street



Telephone (336) 318-6200
Fax (336) 318-6234

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Randolph County resident has tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This is the first reported laboratory-tested positive case in Randolph County. The individual who tested positive reportedly traveled outside of North Carolina, but within the continental United States within the last two weeks.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services stated on Friday, March 20 “there is now documented community transmission of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Data from here and elsewhere in the U.S. indicate that we are moving into the acceleration phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The continued increase of cases across North Carolina, should underscore the importance of following the CDC recommended guidance” stated Susan Hayes, Randolph County Health Director. Even though Randolph County medical personnel and first responders have enacted the appropriate protocols to ensure the public’s safety, Director Hayes continued, “it is everyone’s responsibility to protect themselves and those around them”.

Randolph County Public Health (RCPH) encourages the community to adhere to the Governor’s mitigation recommendations and Executive Orders.

The general public can take the following actions to protect themselves and others:

- Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet between self and others
- Stay home if sick, except to get medical care. Wear a surgical mask if travel is unavoidable.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing between fingers, under fingernails, and on backs and sides of hands. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and rub in until dry if soap and water are not available.
- Regularly sanitize surfaces that other people come in contact with (i.e. phone, keyboard, workstation, door knobs, etc.)

Individuals who suspect they might be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever and cough or shortness of breath) should call their primary care provider or urgent care to discuss their symptoms so appropriate steps can be taken to protect themselves and others.

It is vital that information regarding COVID-19 comes from reliable sources such as:

- CDC www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- NCDHHS www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus
- RCPH <http://www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Public-Health/COVID-19>
- Randolph County Coronavirus Hotline: 336-318-6227